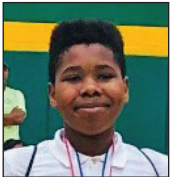




Green Man Festival, p.6



Greenbelt Middle Wins at Math, p.9

Planning and Development: Projects, Successes, Goals

by Kathleen Gallagher

On May 1, the Greenbelt City Council met with staff from the Department of Planning and Community Development for a worksession on their portion of the city manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 city budget. The request includes \$382,900 for Planning and \$663,000 for Community Development, with a little more than \$1 million anticipated from revenue sources in Community Development.

Traditionally, Greenbelt's budget worksessions include not only a scrutinizing of the proposed budget itself but also a review of the past year's achievements, as well as a forecast of work and any potential issues for the upcoming year. So far this year, despite a proposed tax increase, budget worksessions seem to be including little scrutiny of budgets. Tonight's worksession was no exception, but the recounting of the amazing productivity of the department more than filled the given space.

Mayor Emmett Jordan opened the meeting with a reading aloud of the mission, value statements and goals of the Department of Planning and Community Development to demonstrate the extent, reach and responsibilities of what is in fact a relatively small city department.

"We ask a lot, and a lot gets accomplished," Jordan said.

"We ask a lot, and a lot gets accomplished," Jordan said. Planning Director Terri Hruby said the department's situation had changed a great deal since last year's meeting, since she had been able to hire two new community planners: Molly Porter, who was present at the meeting, and Judith Howerton. Hruby also introduced Gilberto Cabrera, the supervisory inspector in code enforcement who, together with his team, has made good progress in establishing cooperative working relationships and sharing resources with other jurisdictions, including Prince George's County and nearby municipalities. Both Cabrera and Hruby had high praise for the work contributed by their administrative staff members in implementing programs, establishing working relationships with property managers and keeping the city's records up to date.

Short-term Rentals

Two areas requiring ongoing

See **PLANNING**, page 12

Education Awards Announced, Student Excellence Recognized

by Colleen Crowley



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

ACE Student Awards recipients from left: Katrina Lu, Aaron Shi, Vincent Blackwell, Enoch Edun, D'Kayla Hanson, Arsalan Siddiqui, Jasmine Tate, Heather Pina, Matthew Harden, Iris Gayken, Angel Flores, Hailey Ng, Kai Waters, Jeneba Lansana, with city councilmembers and state delegates from left: Tawanna Gaines, Ed Putens, Anne Healey, Emmett Jordan, Leta Mach (hidden), Judith Davis, Silke Pope, Alonzo Washington, Rodney Roberts and Colin Byrd.

Parents, teachers, administrators and friends filled the Greenbelt City Council Chambers on May 8 to recognize a group of extraordinary students during the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) Student Awards.

The ACE Student Awards are presented to select students from the highest grade level of each of Greenbelt's schools who honor the city's tradition of citizenship, leadership and academic achievement.

"It's not always just the straight-A students," said Melinda Brady, ACE chair. According to Brady, the awards also honor students who provide unique leadership or recommit

See **ACE AWARDS**, page 11

The Space Connects Mental Health Awareness and Art

by Melissa Sites



PHOTO BY IAN ROGERS

Mother's Day cards, colorful T-shirts and inspirational posters are proudly displayed by their creators at the Art Works for Wellness Art Expo in Beltway Plaza on Saturday. At left is Shaymar Higgs, founder of The Space which co-sponsored the event with the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Dozens of artists of all ages came to Beltway Plaza Mall to explore the connections between creativity and mental health wellness, at the Art Works for Wellness Art Expo, cosponsored by The Space and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Prince

George's County (NAMI PGC).

In celebration of Mother's Day, free corsages made of silk roses were given out to the first 100 participants, provided by Beltway Blossom Shop. Many participants chose to create cards for their mothers using the materials provided by The Space. Other activities included

See **THE SPACE**, page 10

What Goes On

Saturday, May 18
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Public Works Open House, 555 Crescent Road
2 to 6 p.m. Celebration of Spring, Springhill Lake Recreation Center
Monday, May 20
7:30 p.m. Budget Work-session with Green Ridge House, Green Ridge House, 22 Ridge Road.

Budget 2019

City Budget Gets Big Bucks For Capital Improvements

by James Giese

A whopping \$6,453,000 is proposed to be spent in the next fiscal year on capital projects within the city, substantially more than the \$1,846,500 expected to have been spent this year. Mayor Emmett Jordan asked why there was such a big jump at the April 17 budget review worksession for capital projects and Public Works

Department budgets. Assistant City Manager David Moran, City Treasurer Jeff Williams and Public Works Director Jim Sterling were there to explain the budget to council.

Fiscal Year 2020 city taxes will need to be levied to raise

See **BUDGET**, page 10



PHOTO BY TERRY LACUESTA

Linden Dirksen poses at the awards ceremony for Write-A-Book on May 8. See story, page 9.

Letters to the Editor

THANKS

I want to thank (in advance of the screening) the public, Caitlin McGrath, executive director of the Old Greenbelt Theatre, Brenna and the rest of the theater staff, the Greenbelt News Review, Washington Jewish Week and the Greenbelt City Council, especially Councilmember Colin Byrd, for the support given for the special showing of The Three Stooges vs Adolf Hitler. I again ask for the public to nominate You Nazty Spy to the National Film Registry, basically the Hall of Fame for Films (loc.gov).

Again, thanks to all, but especially to Caitlin McGrath and the staff of the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

James William Thompson

5-G Cell Towers: Another View

Regarding the May 2 letter to the Editor “Oppose HR 7236.” As a scientist who researched and published on biological effects of electromagnetic radiations, including microwave radiation, I must respond to the assertion in the opening paragraph of the letter that, “The adverse biological effects of radiation from cell transmitters is well documented in the scientific literature,” because statements like this one give oxygen to other bad science-based myths, such as “Child vaccinations cause autism,” “Addiction is a moral failure” and “We need a debate about climate change.”

Mr. Manico has recommended the Environmental Health Trust Organization (ehtrust.org) as a reliable source of information on “RF [radiofrequency] Radiation and 5G in particular” (<https://www.radiationhealthrisks.com/scientific-studies/>). The site focuses on the potential association between cell phone use and risk of developing a brain tumor, but does not mention that multiple large studies established no conclusive causative role for radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, including cell phone use, for brain tumors (e.g., Lapointe S. et al. Primary brain tumours in adults. Lancet 392, 432-446, 2018).

Collectively, extremely cherry-picked studies and opinion pieces on ehtrust.org misinterpret the intention of classifying radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation as a Group 2B carcinogen (“possible carcinogen for humans”) by the World Health Organization (WHO)/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) by claiming incorrectly that “possible carcinogen” means “cancer causing.” According to WHO/IARC, “possibly carcinogenic to humans” means: “there is limited evidence in humans and insufficient evidence in animals” (see: <https://monographs.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CurrentPreamble.pdf>).

Some other items on the Group 2B list include coffee, pickled vegetables, coconut oil and talcum powder. If one says that RF/5G is as dangerous as coffee or pickles, Group 2B classification is a lot less ominous.

In addition to the literature review, radiationhealthrisks.com provides links to a site promoting “Aulterra Global Studies – Reducing the Effects Of [Electromagnetic] Radiation”. An article from Quantum Biology Research Laboratory (PO Box 428, Ridgway, CO 81432) www.radiationhealthrisks.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Quantum-Biology-In-Vitro-Reduce-EMF.pdf) describes experimental evidence for “The Ability of Aulterra’s Neutralizer to Reverse the Harmful Effects of Electromagnetic Fields Generated from Cell Phones on Human DNA.” The Aulterra “shielding disk is composed of a sedimentary mineral rock powder obtained from a mine in Utah” and is “commercially available through Aulterra International, Coeur D’Alene, ID, www.aulterra.com.” Aulterra Neutralizer Sticker is only one of many other recommended “radiation protection devices”, some available on Amazon (e.g., “blue light” glasses and steel wire baskets). With so many remedies, why call for “stopping the deployment of 5G altogether.” The reason, as shown throughout this message, is that “there is no safe way to implement 5G in our communities” as well as sound the alarm about “the children and teachers in radiofrequency radiation [bath] every school day for all their school years. Parents who don’t want their children exposed to such radiation MUST forfeit a public-school education for their children” <https://ehtrust.org/5g-and-its-small-cell-towers-threaten-public-health-harvard-phd-scientist/>.

Lastly, H.R. 7236 (115th): Radiofrequency Radiation Site Safety Information Act of 2018 (GovTrack.us. 2018) was introduced by Duncan Hunter (Republican representing California’s 50th congressional district) in December 10, 2018, died in the previous Congress (2017-2019) and was re-introduced in May 7, 2019, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr7236>. Mr. Manico probably meant not H.R.7236 (“Oppose HR7236”) but HB654/SB937 and HB1020/SP713 introduced before the Maryland General Assembly in February 25, 2019. These two bills, not H.R. 7236, are about controlling or not 5G deployment in local communities (lightonconspiracies.com/).

Elizabeth K. Balcer-Kubiczek, Ph.D.

Reasons to Oppose Managed Lanes

Regarding the report from the MDOT presentation on I-495/270 Managed Lanes (May 2), I was pleased to see that the project would have little direct impact on Greenbelt. However, as

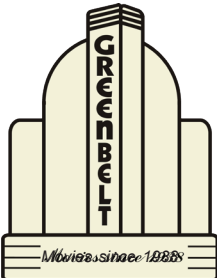
See LETTERS, page 12

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Members' Kids Free!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES
May 17th - May 23rd

WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY
(PG-13)(CC)(2019)(84 mins)
Fri. 2:30, 5:00,
7:30 PM(w/guest speaker)
Sat. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 PM
Mon. 5:00, 7:30 PM
Tues. 5:00, 7:30 PM
Wed. 2:30, 5:00, 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:00, 7:30 PM

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

On Screen

Wild Nights with Emily

Was 19th-century poet Emily Dickinson really a shy, melancholic recluse? Inspired by Dickinson’s private letters, writer/director Madeline Olnek suggests no, far from it.

In Wild Nights with Emily, Dickinson, portrayed by Molly Shannon, enjoys a passionate, lifelong romantic relationship with Susan Gilbert (Susan Ziegler), her friend and sister-in-law.

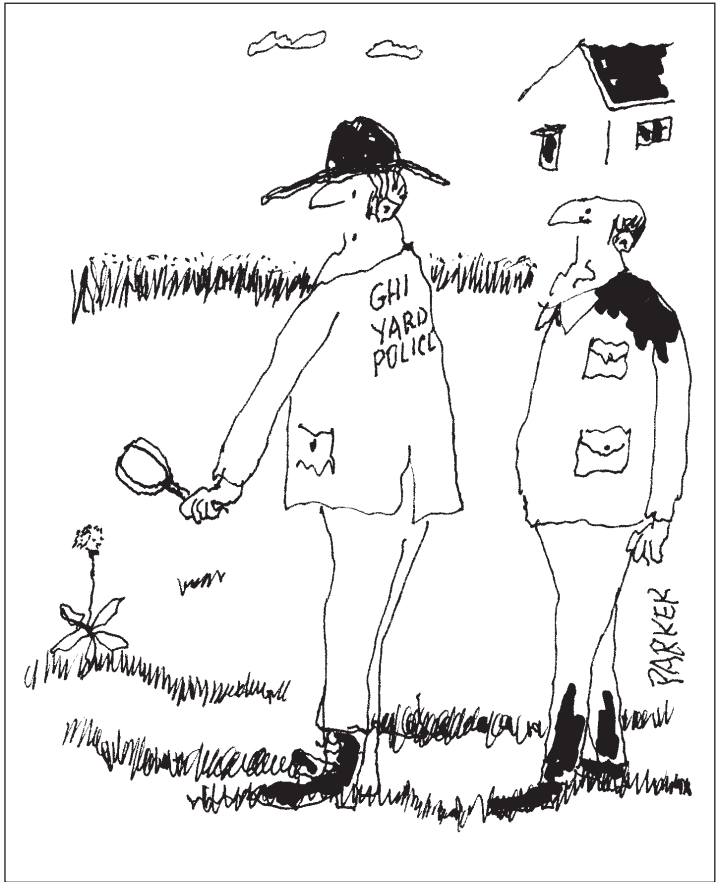
Mabel Todd and Dickinson’s brother’s mistress (Amy Seimetz), assembled and edited the first posthumous collection of Dickinson’s poetry. Her sanitized narration of this film provides comical contrasts with lively scenes of Emily and Susan sharing a loving, happy life.

The film is a funny, respectful, lively, serious, eye-opening reinterpretation of the life of this well-known (but maybe not so well-known after all) American poet.

Rating PG-13, Running Time 1h 24m

- Lesley Kash

The Old Curmudgeon



“Remember . . . beauty lies in the eye of the beholder!”

- News Review, May 20, 2004

LOOKING FOR PROOFERS

To proofread the paper
on Wednesday afternoons

Email editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com
or call Sue at 301-474-2219.



Greenbelt News Review

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

Community Events

Thoughtful Discussion At Community Center

What will we do if the search for extraterrestrial life is successful? How should earth react to a first contact with an alien species? Will our focus be on protecting ourselves or protecting them from us or ensuring mutual benefits?

The MakerSpace thoughtful discussion group will explore the possibilities on Tuesday, May 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center. Those wishing to expand their horizons are welcome to join in. Check the white board near the welcome desk to find out what room the meeting will be in.

Washington to Hold Transportation Meet

Del. Alonzo Washington invites the community to join him for a public meeting to discuss the proposed MAGLEV train and the Beltway expansion on Wednesday, May 29 at 6 p.m. at the Riverdale Park Town Hall Building 5008 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park.

Representatives from the State Highway Administration & BWRR will be in attendance to answer questions and concerns about these projects.

ERHS Drama at GAC

Eleanor Roosevelt High School drama students will present Declaration by Jonathan Dorf at Greenbelt Arts Center on Saturday, May 18, at 7 p.m. The events of the play take place before, during, and after a fictional shooting at Eleanor Roosevelt. The one-act play will be followed by a post-show talk-back discussion about the issues of school shootings and gun control. Tickets are available online at greenbeltartscenter.org/. (See ad this page.)



PHOTO BY JULIE HAWK

Keep Food Scraps From the Landfill

Join the Food Scraps Recycling Project with neighbors who already participate. Learn how to recycle your household food scraps at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center’s hot compost system. Keep food scraps from creating methane at the landfill. Instead, return them to the earth to nurture new plants and flowers.

A free 90-minute training session will be held on Sunday, May 19 and at other times over the summer. To participate, pick up a paper application at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center or the Community Center, or complete and send your application online at tinyurl.com/GBCapp1.

ERHS Closed May 29 For Graduation

Eleanor Roosevelt High School will hold its 2019 Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, May 29. The school will be closed for the day.

Community Hospices Holds Discussion

The Washington Home and Community Hospices – Maryland will meet on Tuesday, May 21 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. This month’s theme is strategies for resolving guilt and anger after the loss of a loved one. For further information, call Bereavement Counselor Margaret Capurso at 301-560-6002.

Greenbelt Unplugged Walks at Patuxent

Greenbelt Unplugged plans a leisurely stroll at the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge on Sunday, May 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information or to ride share, contact the group through their website greenbeltunplugged.org.

Coal Industry’s Grip Is Reel & Meal Focus

On Monday, May 20, the Reel & Meal at the New Deal features Blood on the Mountain, an historical account of the coal industry’s grip on workers and mining communities of West Virginia. The free screening starts at 7 p.m., after an optional vegan meal served beginning at 6:30 at the New Deal Café. The program is jointly sponsored with DC LaborFest.

Blood on the Mountain recounts the economic struggles of unions. It reveals the toxic effects of coal on miners’ lungs as well as on local mountains and waterways and tells the story of a hard-working people who have never benefited fairly from coal country’s natural resources. It shows how outside corporations, supported by politicians, have taken advantage of an undiversified economy and people with few choices. The movie was written and directed by Mari-Lynn C. Evans and Jordan Freeman and it was released in November 2016. Production partners were the AFL-CIO, ACLU, Sierra Club, EarthJustice and other advocacy organizations.

After the screening, discussion and commentary will focus on how citizens can take action for workers’ rights and environmental justice. Co-leading this part of the program will be Matt Dernoga, Maryland Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Conservation representative, who is working on a campaign to move the state toward a clean energy future.

This event is planned by Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition along with the LaborFest sponsor, the Metro Washington AFL-CIO Council. Other sponsors of the Reel & Meal monthly series are Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking and Utopia Film Festival. For more information about this program contact justpeacepg@earthlink.net. and bloodonthemountain.com and facebook.com/reelandmealNDC.

Don’t Be Lonely Join GIVES

Before social media ruled, friendly phone chats and casual visits kept Greenbelters connected. GIVES members are keeping that neighborly spirit going strong. Living alone need not mean living lonely.

Would you like to get a regular call or friendly visit? If you have sociability to spare, would you enjoy calling or visiting a neighbor who lives alone?

We want to be sure everyone in our community has company now and then and the cheering reassurance that brings. GIVES invites all Greenbelt residents to join and be part of the original social medium: a friendly chat.

Call 301-507-6580 to join GIVES.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of May 20 are as follows:

Monday, May 20: Southwest chicken, Spanish rice, Mexicali vegetables, whole wheat bread, mandarin oranges, grape juice.

Tuesday, May 21: Salisbury steak with gravy, whipped potatoes, glazed carrots, whole wheat roll, fresh fruit, orange juice.

Wednesday, May 22: All sites closed.

Thursday, May 23: All sites closed.

Friday, May 24: Pork riblet with BBQ sauce, baked beans, apple crisp, coleslaw, whole wheat hamburger bun, cranberry juice.

Active Parenting Workshops at GES

Two workshops for active parents of Greenbelt Elementary School students will be held in the school’s Media Center at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 21 and June 11.

On May 21, a workshop on the parent/child cycle will deal with handling anger using the Feelings, Limits, Alternatives, Consequences (FLAC) method.

The June 11 workshop features seven smart things active parents can do to help their children succeed in school.

GES parents are asked to RSVP via email to Kristin. Cahalan@pgcps.org.

Light refreshments will be served and babysitting will be provided upon request with RSVP.

May 18 Tennis Social

On Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Greenbelt Tennis Association (GTA) will sponsor an informal tennis social at Braden Field courts. The social is free and all skill levels are welcome for friendly doubles and singles play, no partner needed. Ready to learn or re-learn? Try adult/teen beginner court. Balls and light refreshments provided and rackets are made available. Participants can sign up for GTA membership at the event. Membership forms are also available from GTA’s website (greenbelt.com/tennis).



Greenbelt Access Television

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

One Day Basic Videography and Editing Bootcamp

After a brief introduction to camera you will have one hour to shoot a piece called "My Greenbelt". The rest of the session will be devoted to editing.

Saturday, May 25th from 9:30 to 3:30.
Limit 4. GATe members only. \$50
RSVP to greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19

For our schedule, visit: www.greenbeltaccessstv.org and click on "Channel"

GAC presents a guest production by:

Eleanor Roosevelt High School

DECLARATION

Saturday, May 18 at 7pm


Follow a group of students as their high school becomes ground-zero of a mass shooting.

Tickets \$10 available at:
www.greenbeltartscenter.org

There will be a post-show discussion with ERHS students and the audience.
May not be suitable for young children.

Coming Soon at Greenbelt Arts Center
JUNE 1 Cabaret Night • **June 14-23** Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.



NOW STREAMING LIVE
www.greenbeltaccess.org/channel-live-stream

Program Schedule
Friday May 17 - Thursday May 23

7 am	Greenbelt News Reel
8 am	Democracy Now!
9 am	Classic Film: <i>Captain Kidd</i> (1945) Randolph Scott
11 am	Adopt A Pet
11:30	Greenbelt Discussion
12 pm	Greenbelt News Reel
1 pm	Strata (Archaeology)
2 pm	Greenbelt News Reel
3 pm	Classic Film: <i>Captain Kidd</i> (1945) Randolph Scott
5 pm	Strata (Archaeology)
6 pm	Greenbelt News Reel
7 pm	Democracy Now!
8 pm	Classic Film: <i>Captain Kidd</i> (1945) Randolph Scott
10 pm	Democracy Now!
11 pm	Adopt A Pet
11:30	Greenbelt Discussion
12 pm	Greenbelt News Reel

NOW STREAMING LIVE
www.greenbeltaccess.org/channel-live-stream

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19

Greenbelt Community Church Joins in Christmas in April

by Jo-Anne Fournier

On April 27, 11 members of the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) volunteered with Christmas in April of Prince George’s County. GCC has participated in the program since 1989 and this year joined the firefighters from Clinton Firehouse #25 to help out a homeowner. In fact, over 3,000 volunteers worked on homes throughout Prince George’s County in 2019 for Christmas in April. GCC’s homeowner, who was recovering from an accident, had taken in a boarder with mobility issues and needed help with yard

work, cleaning out rooms and moving items into the garage. The boarder was having difficulty negotiating a step from the house into the garage for the boarder to leave the house. A possible solution was to build a ramp, and the GCC crew got to work and planned, purchased materials and provided the labor. They cleaned out the garage and built shelves so items could be organized to free up space for the ramp. The ramp was assembled in the driveway and moved into the garage next to the step.

The Clinton Firehouse #25 crew set about cleaning up the front and back yards, raking, trimming overgrown trees and bushes and clearing vegetation from electrical wires in the front yard averting a serious fire hazard.

It is not too early for your group to be a part of Christmas in April 2020. Christmas in April (christmasinaprilpg.org/) accepts applications from homeowners who need help with projects, including house painting, repairs, cleaning and carpentry, that the homeowner cannot do for lack of resources, aging issues or disability. Christmas in April matches homeowners and volunteer organizations and sets the date every April for work throughout the county and the U.S.

A Bit More Peace

In a world where many of us often attempt to do more, do it better and do it more quickly, the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood has quietly offered summer guided meditation classes to Greenbelters for the past four years. Class sizes have ranged from eight to 19 people, from teenagers to senior citizens. All attendees have expressed a quieting of their bodies, minds and spirits, a deepening of inner stillness and a better ability to reconnect with themselves. They have described feeling more peaceful, serene, relaxed, mindful and present, both during and between the classes. Common experiences outside of the classes have been for people to have greater ease falling asleep and more patience during challenging times.

By sponsoring these classes and providing a place to meet, a difference has been made in people’s lives by having opportunities to slow down, become quiet, go within, and experience a bit more peace. Another series is being sponsored again this summer, starting in June. For more information contact Katrina Boverman at Katrinaboverman@yahoo.com or 301-345-4342.



Community Church Dedicates Rain Garden

The Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ will dedicate its new rain garden in a special service devoted to the care of the environment on Sunday, May 19 at 10:15 a.m. All are invited to attend.

The rain garden was funded and built through the Prince George’s County Alternative Compliance program, by which nonprofit organizations and houses of worship can have up to 100 percent of their Clean Water Act fee reduced through easily achievable measures, including allowing the county to install a stormwater management project on its grounds. The stormwater management project chosen for the church was a rain garden.

A rain garden has two purposes: to slow down the rush of stormwater so some can be absorbed into the ground, lessening the amount running into the Anacostia River; and to remove pollutants from the water before it flows into the Anacostia. It removes pollutants by filtering the water through special absorbent soils in the base of the rain garden.

The service will include a talk by the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake about the impact the faith community has on environmental projects across the state. There will also be an informal tour and discussion about the rain garden after the service.



Congratulations to Greenbelt Middle School 8th grader Linden Dirksen whose book Proteus won first place in the Illustrated Fiction category for the middle- to high- school age division in the Prince George’s County Public Schools Write-A-Book contest.

Congratulations to the teams of Greenbelt Middle School students who placed well in the 7th grade/Advanced 1 category in the Prince George’s County Third Annual Middle Grades Math Meet.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

At the Jewish Table

Mishkan Torah welcomes Phyllis Richman, long-time food critic of the Washington Post, and Todd Kliman, former food critic of Washingtonian, for an afternoon of thoughtful conversation and sampling of classic Jewish foods starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 16. Although about a generation apart in age, the two James Beard Award-winning writers share the connection of having grown up in Greenbelt and attending Mishkan Torah.

Richman and Kliman will be speaking about their time in Greenbelt, the power of food in the Jewish tradition and the influence of their shared heritage on their evolutions as food writers, plus offer their perspectives on current trends in Jewish cuisine. Because food will be specially prepared for this event, reservations are required by Sunday, June 9. For more information or to register, visit mishkantorah.org/the-jewish-table or call 301-474-4223.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Worship Service 10 a.m.

Christianity is a way of life.



O people! The goodliest vesture in the sight of God in this day is trustworthiness. All bounty and honour shall be the portion of the soul that arrayeth itself with this greatest of adornments.” – Bahá’í Writings

Greenbelt Baha’i Community

1-800-22-UNITE

Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com

301-345-2918

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Never put a period where a comma should be . . .

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt

301-474-6171

Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff

Join Us this Sunday at 10:15 for

“Love, Love, Love”

John 13:31-35

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322



Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

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15th Green Man Festival Fills Center with Music and Nature

by Theresa Diffendal

Woodland sprites inhabited the Roosevelt Center Plaza for a weekend, celebrating Mother Earth through song, dance and art at the 15th annual Greenbelt Green Man Festival.

Tents filled with handmade items for sale, advocacy groups and environmental information lined the sidewalk, enticing visitors with sustainably sourced or produced food, jewelry, pottery and clothes as music drifted from the main stage.

Attendees who arrived early on Saturday were greeted by a community drum circle. Performers sat in a ring in front of the Mother and Child sculpture and beat out rhythms on hand drums, inviting children to dance or add to the music with small maracas.

The festivities honored the Green Man, described by festival partakers as a mythological wild man who represents nature, environmentalism and free spirits.

“Green Man is a mythical figure, which is meant to symbolize the relationship between humanity and the natural world, particularly the earth and the vegetation world,” said Dan Seager, who travels with his friend Tom Goodridge from New York every year to attend.

“This is a symbol that is universal ... a figure which represents the spirit of unity between the human state and the natural world.”

One of many who dressed in costume, Goodridge wore green tights and a tunic and draped leafy vines across his body. His face was obscured by a large leaf and he accentuated his words with flourishes from a grasshopper puppet he wore on one hand.

The theme of this year’s Green Man Festival was Gaia, or Mother Earth, and celebrated the historical bond between the two green figures.

“I’ve always had a special place in my heart for Mother Earth,” said Jean Newcomb, who helped bring the first Greenbelt Green Man Festival to life. “She’s always tapping me on the shoulder, saying, ‘Okay, come on, draw a picture, make a poem. Come on, I’m here.’”

Newcomb said this year’s theme was in response to questions about the existence of a female counterpart to the Green Man. In the past, Newcomb would reply that the Green Man speaks on behalf of Mother Earth.

“But you know what? Let’s let Mother Earth talk for herself this year,” Newcomb said.

Part of that talking involved the importance of environmentally-friendly habits, such as composting.

Couple Dale and Vince Wilding manned the booth for Neighborhood Composting, a group of about 25 families who combine their food scraps with wood chips and leave them to break down in bins until it becomes compost.

The Wildings see the Green Man Festival as an opportunity for vendors whose fare is ecological in nature: the attendees “are not here just for the good music, but because they’re interested in taking care of the environment,” Vince said.

For Anna Snodgrass, also known by her stage name Ari-



Musicians encourage dancing by all ages at the Green Man Festival in Roosevelt Center on May 11.

- Photos by DeLon Thornton



A drum circle in Roosevelt Center energizes the Green Man Festival.

anna Lightningstorm, taking care of the environment is wrapped up in music. She was one of many who contributed to the musical atmosphere with her band, Kiva, who have attended the festival for a number of years. Its members play an eclectic mix of instruments, from mandolin to Native American flutes to Australian didgeridoos.

Snodgrass’ vocals combine with the musical ensemble to produce a genre she calls mystical folk and world fusion.

“It’s all based on the love of nature, the love of the world, the love of beauty,” she said. “And the concept of beauty in the way that some Native Americans think about it, as in beauty is magic.”

Greenbelt’s Green Man Festival is just one of many that occur across the world, inviting partakers to celebrate and appreciate the natural earth Green Man personifies.

“It’s really important that wild things and wild life be protected and preserved,” Snodgrass said, “because humanity can’t live on cement. We think we can, but we can’t.”

Theresa Diffendal is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism reporting for the News Review.

Patuxent Bookstore Seeks Volunteers

Wildlife Images, located in the Visitor Center of Patuxent Research Refuge, stocks a wide variety of wildlife-related books for all ages.

Linda Shive manages the bookstore for Friends of Patuxent and is seeking additional volunteers to assist her. Anyone who would like to volunteer for a good cause, or knows of someone else who might like to do so, can contact Linda at wibookstore@friendsofpatuxent.org.



Dorian Winterfeld as the Green Man and musician Naomi Littlefield perform at Greenbelt’s first Farmer’s Market of the season on May 12.

- Photos by Rahul Mehta



Musicians perform at the Green Man Festival.

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GHI Election Results

At the GHI annual meeting on Thursday, May 9, five candidates were elected to the GHI Board of Directors for two-year terms: Sue Ready, Anna Socrates, Steve Skolnik, Chuck Hess and William Jones.

Three vacancies on the audit committee were filled for one-year terms by Lindsay McAndrew, Carol Griffith and Joyce Campbell. Also elected by acclamation to the Nominations and Elections Committee were Alexander Barnes, Theresa Henderson, Tom Jones, Luisa Robles and Mary Salemme.

In all, 157 ballots were cast and none were disqualified. These included three proxy ballots and three absentee ballots.

City Notes

The Summer 2019 Activity Guide is now available. Registration is open for Greenbelt residents.

The Community Center hosted the GHI Annual Meeting. One hundred Artward Bound first grade visitors from Greenbelt Elementary School enjoyed circus arts activities and folk painting workshops.

Mom's Morning Out students made Mother's Day gifts and watched butterflies emerge.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted NovaCare Rehabilitation for free balance screening tests for 35 participants as part of Older Americans Month. Seniors went shopping at Bowie Town Center.

Park Rangers helped with a candlelight vigil for about 50 participants at Buddy Attick Park.

Refuse/Recycling collected 43.62 tons of refuse and 13.45 tons of recyclable materials.

Environmental/Sustainability staff helped with the Green Man Festival by preparing vermicomposting kits, supplying trash and recycling bins and coordinating volunteers.

Building Maintenance repaired the light fixtures in the underpass by the Greenbelt Museum.

Horticulture and Parks did landscape maintenance throughout the city.

Animal Control impounded a dog from eviction and returned it to its owner, picked up two stray dogs and returned them to owners and rescued an injured turtle and an injured bird. One cat and one dog were adopted.

CARES's Liz Park, along with the four other Prince George's County Youth Services Bureau (YSB) directors, spoke at the Prince George's County Council meeting on April 29 about the work YSBs do in the county. They thanked the council for previous grants, and requested an increase in county funding to support the programs.

Bartholdi Park Focus Of USBG Tour

On Tuesday, May 21 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. the United States Botanic Gardens Bartholdi Park walking tour will highlight the park's history, gardens, planting and recent renovation to upgrade accessibility, safety and sustainability.

Come join, rain or shine. This tour is held outdoors. Bring protective clothing and water. The tour is canceled in the event of extreme weather conditions. This tour is free; pre-registration is required at usbg.doubleknot.com/event/2496726.



Members of Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated vote for new officers and conduct other business at their annual meeting, held last Thursday, May 9.

PHOTO BY GARY CHILDS

GHI Notes

Thursday, May 16, 7:45 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room.

Friday, May 17, office closed. Emergency maintenance service available at 301-474-6011.

Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting, Board Room; 7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby.

Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Meeting, Board Room.

Thursday, May 23, 7 p.m., Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, Board Room.

Saturday, May 25, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room.

Monday, May 27, office closed. Emergency maintenance service available at 301-474-6011.



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Crofton, Maryland 21114
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District Heights, Maryland 20747
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Riverdale, Maryland 20737
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Greenbelt Middle Students Excel in County Math Meet

On Saturday, April 27, students from Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) won first place in the Math 7/Accelerated 1 category in the recent Prince George's County Third Annual Middle Grades Math Meet. Students from elementary and middle schools across the county participated in

the Math Meet, held at GMS. Each team participated in four rounds of competition: STEM, team problem solving, individual and live. Coached by their teacher, Myrna Natividad, groups of GMS students competed in three cat-

egories: 7th grade/Advanced 1, 8th grade/Advanced 2 and Algebra/Trigonometry. The competition gave students an opportunity to see just how fun mathematics can be. Their teachers are very proud of them.



The Greenbelt Middle School 6th grade team won first place in the Math 7/Accelerated 1 category in the County Middle Grades Math Meet. From left: Latoya Tolbert, mathematics resource teacher; Myrna Natividad, math teacher; Lincoln Beasley, coach; Krisha Patel; Najma Arfa; Dilan Njong; Noah Eubanks; Michelle Dyson, mathematics instructional supervisor; Beyunka Scates, mathematics instructional specialist.

PHOTO BY NATALIE BAILEY



The GMS 8th grade math team took third place in the Algebra/Geometry category. From left: Helena Tesfaye, Rebekkah Solomon, Ashley Gonzalez, Lynnette Hunt, Katherlyn Le, Rebecca Schmidt

PHOTO BY MYRNA NATIVIDAD

GMS Student Fantasy Book Wins Write-A-Book Contest

by Matthew Arbach

Imagine a future world where unbridled technology has led to a chaotic outbreak of mutation, resulting in war and desperate efforts to survive. This is the world created by Linden Dirksen, an 8th grader at Greenbelt Middle School (GMS), for this year's county-wide Write-A-Book contest. Her book Proteus received First Place in the Illustrated Fiction category for the middle- to high-school age division at the awards ceremony held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on May 8. Themes of loss and

abandonment are intertwined with ones of hope and perseverance, leading to an outcome where everything gets better and the characters are accepted for who they are, said Dirksen.

Dirksen also provided the book's illustrations which her mother Lucy, herself a book illustrator, emphasized were completed in an hour's time to meet the book's entry deadline.

This is the first year that GMS has participated in this contest. In addition to Dirksen, GMS students placed second for Children's Book and third for Illustrated Fiction. Graphic Arts teacher Cortland Jones was approached by new Principal Daria Valentine about the possibility of their school's entry this year. A school-wide announcement was made with Dirksen and several others showing interest. Jones asserted how "great and exciting" it is for GMS to get this recognition.

The main character of Proteus is Tobias Greedin, a young man "with a small and quiet voice, but a big heart and a very big build," said Dirksen. As the result of exposure to the Proteus device, he, along with millions of others, was mutated in ways people may not imagine. A war ensues, fought by designed super soldiers called Willocks. Along the way, Tobias "attempts to survive getting shut out of society. He meets many friends and foes in his attempt to help" them to survive.

Dirksen said that the book was mainly inspired by her brother. He shared a dream with her where he had acquired an extra arm and told her that it would be

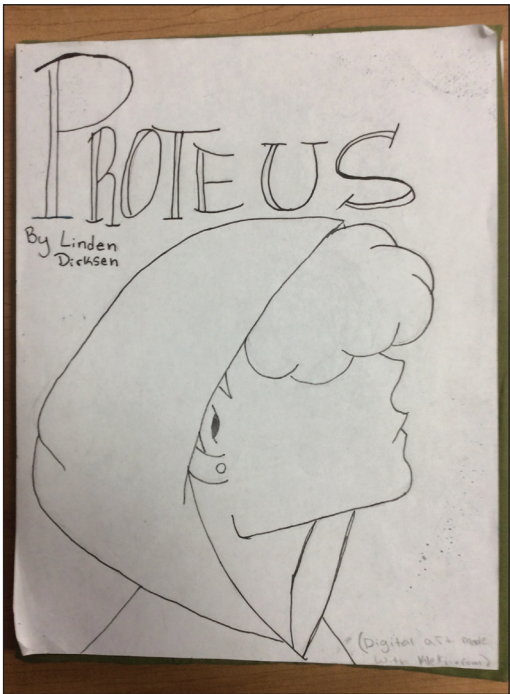


PHOTO BY CORTLAND JONES

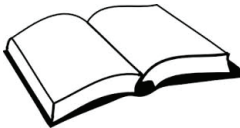
Linden Dirksen's book, Proteus, places first in the area Write-A-Book competition.

a good springboard for a story. The book is in many ways an homage to him and an appreciation of his own efforts to struggle through difficult times.

When asked about her process, she said that the words came first, providing the impetus for her later illustrations. Her literary inspirations include epic fantasy like the Percy Jackson series and the long-running Doctor Who television program. Dirksen's book is truly an individual effort. Both Jones and Dirksen's mother emphasized that she received no assistance along the way. Proteus is her second effort. In 6th grade she wrote a fantasy adventure entitled A Tear in Reality.

According to Verleta Taylor, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) library assistant for review and evaluation and coordinator for the Write-A-Book Contest, the main goal for the contest is to get students "active in writing, encourage freedom of expression and promote reading and writing." The PGCPS website goes on to say that it seeks to encourage "students to write to inform, to persuade, and to express personal ideas." The contest is sponsored by the Office of Library Media Services. This is the 42nd year and there were around 600 submissions.

When asked about her brother's reaction to her book, Dirksen said he was really proud and thought it was really cool. But, in the end, just seeing him smile was good enough.



Free County Festival Sunday, May 19
Attend the county's biggest free community festival, Prince George's County Family and Friends Day, this Sunday, May 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. at Watkins Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive in Upper Marlboro. This is an annual family community event that promotes local businesses and nonprofits in the county. RSVP to tinyurl.com/buylocal-investlocal-May19.



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BUDGET continued from page 1

\$1,295,000 to fund these projects. Various grants sought and obtained from other sources will provide nearly an equal amount of funding, \$1,113,500. The remaining monies will come from other sources or funds already reserved for capital projects.

Williams noted that a substantial amount, \$2,285,000, is to be spent on state-required repairs to the Greenbelt Lake dam, a project long under consideration and planning. Williams expects approval from the Maryland Environmental Administration (MEA) by July 1 and work could begin shortly after the Independence Day fireworks are set off.

Built in 1936, the dam and spillway have suffered deterioration. Leakage through the dam was first noted by state inspectors in the 1980s and significant cracking and spalling of concrete was apparent even earlier. While this was a matter of concern, the solid concrete core of the dam, backed up by extensive amounts of earth fill, assured that there was no immediate safety concern. The city has already spent in past years over \$350,000 on spillway repairs and project planning. The project will be funded by a \$2,000,000 MEA Water Quality Loan and a \$285,000 State Bond Bill. In the last city election, voters authorized the borrowing of funds from MEA for this project.

Theater

Another major project to be undertaken in the new year is the replacement of the roof and the heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment, as well as seat replacement, at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. The building is owned by the city and leased to a nonprofit operator. Friends of Greenbelt Theatre have raised the funds for seat replacement. Work is expected to begin this June. The city cost for this project in the new budget is \$549,600 with another \$6,100 expected to be spent this year.

Metro Trail

Another big-ticket item (\$1,850,000) in the budget is to provide a temporary pedestrian trail between the South Core of Greenbelt Station housing development and the Greenbelt Metro Station. When development takes place in the North Core, Greenbelt Station Parkway and its sidewalks will be extended to the Metro Station from the South Core, but currently there are no prospects for this development to occur. In the meantime, residents of the South Core are not able to walk the short distance to the Metro station. The substantial expense is to pay for extensive improvement costs upon the station property required by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The project will be funded from developer contributions to the city for infrastructure improvements to the area.

Councilmember Silke Pope expressed the frustration of all councilmembers over the high cost of a temporary pathway and hoped that WMATA could be persuaded to reduce some of its costly requirements.

Street Resurfacing

The Public Works Department goal is to resurface and repair one mile of street each year. With 25 miles of city-maintained streets to care for, this is a modest goal. In the new budget,

\$634,200 is proposed to be spent on Ivy Lane and Frankfort Drive as well as for base repairs on other streets. Another \$140,800 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds is proposed to be spent on the west end of Breezewood Drive in the next fiscal year, while the current year's program grant is to resurface the east half.

These grant funds can only be used on federally designated lower income areas. Councilmember Judith Davis noted that the city might no longer be eligible to receive these grants following the 2020 federal census. The owners of the Franklin Park apartment community in Greenbelt West have significantly upgraded those apartments and increased rental rates since the last census.

Park Acquisition

The city has obtained or expects to get Open Space grants totaling \$660,000. The budget provides \$400,000 for land acquisition, but staff has not identified any property available for purchase in this nearly fully developed city.

Two other projects, still not shovel-ready but for which funds are budgeted, are a second dog park (\$30,000) and improvements to Greenbrook trails (\$16,000). The council has not yet been able to agree on a location for a second dog park. The Greenbrook trails are commonly owned by residents of the Greenbrook subdivision, but because the common lands serve as the park area for that development, the council has agreed to help maintain the trails. However, an agreement between the city and the homeowner's association for this to be done has yet to be reached.

Wish List

Included in the budget document is a list of identified capital projects for which funding has not been identified over the next five years. Although costs are not estimated, it can be expected that dredging and lining Greenbelt Lake will both be big ticket items. Some of the other unfunded projects are replacing the stage at the Community Center and re-utilizing the ground floor kitchen area; building a Wall of Honor; resource evaluation of the Hamilton, Turner and Walker family cemeteries and the Hamilton homestead; upgrading street lights; providing a columbarium wall for cremated remains at the Greenbelt Cemetery; replacing ballfield lights and upgrading the intersection of Lakecrest Drive with Greenbelt Road.

Pope said she hoped something could be worked out for expanding the city cemetery as she would like to purchase a place there. Existing gravesites are all sold.

GCDC Annual Meeting

The Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC) is holding its annual meeting on Saturday, June 22 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center in Room 202. Marc "Kap" Kapastin of Quantum and an engineer from the Rogers Consulting planning firm will present the Beltway Plaza concept plan. They will describe the plan to date and answer questions from the attendees.

The GCDC business meeting will follow the presentation.

THE SPACE continued from page 1

decorating T-shirts, making posters with inspirational phrases, free expression painting and assembling self-care kits.

Higgs, organizer of The Space, presented the event to give people an opportunity to make art while learning about mental health resources. The event was set up in the court of the mall next to TJ Maxx, with several volunteers from NAMI offering mental health information. In addition to community members, around 20 people from NAMI attended the event including volunteers, program leaders, members and board members. Collette Harris, executive director for NAMI PGC (namipgc.org), stated, "My dream for an event like this is to increase awareness of resources available for people in need and to inform people about who we are and what we do, the services and programs we provide free to all residents of Prince George's County."

The event ran from noon to 2 p.m. Afterward, volunteers moved the materials back to The Space, located across from the AMC Academy 8 Cinema, where participants were invited to continue making free art until 8 p.m.

Volunteers from NAMI PGC offered stickers, NAMI information and signup sheets so that participants could receive more information about mental health.

Kimmie Jolly, a volunteer with The Space, related how volunteers have become involved since last August when Higgs began The Space. "It's actually free, with no catch," she said, explaining that many people are suspicious that there will be a hidden cost to activities sponsored by The Space, but all activities are operated by volunteers with donated materials. For example, Eleanor Roosevelt High School student and volunteer Jamie Voytsekhovska explained that the little canvases people were painting all came from donations. "People donate things. The Space also accepts donations of things lying around the house," she said. Even clothing may be made into projects or passed along. "We brought out canvases to help people express their feelings. Kids are very drawn to the colors and have fun with the paintbrush," Voytsekhovska explained.

The Space volunteer Jennifer Dudley helped to coordinate the self-care kits, which included chamomile tea, chocolates, flowers, sage, positive stickers, inspirational quotes from magazines, and a 20 percent discount coupon from Smile Herb Shop of Col-



Making art at Art Works for Wellness Art Expo

- Photos by Ian Rogers



A center court at Beltway Plaza comes alive like Brigadoon on Saturday, much to the amusement of passing mall patrons, as dozens of young artists-in-residence-for-the-afternoon transform white cotton canvases and T-shirts into colorful expressions of beauty and hope. The Art Work for Wellness Art Expo was co-sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Prince George's County and Beltway Plaza's own free center of artistic expression, The Space. Founder Shaymar Higgs, at left in the green apron, and other volunteers mingle with the artists.

lege Park. Dudley said, "It's been beautiful watching people find things that resonate with them." Since The Space has adopted the Junior Maker Program from Greenbelt MakerSpace, Dudley has taught people to make light-up cards using Chibitronics electronic papercraft projects.


The Art Expo was "a really great partnership with NAMI, whose headquarters is in New Carrollton, with Mr. Higgs's free space here in Beltway Plaza," to bring different members of the community together," said Mayor Emmett Jordan. Councilmem-

ber Judith Davis and longtime arts advocate Konrad Herling also visited the event. "Not every mall is as community driven as Beltway Plaza," commented Janubi Devendra, director of marketing for Quantum Company/Beltway Plaza, adding that the mall found it "not at all difficult to put on such events. We love partnerships such as these. It really brings everyone together."



CAR AUCTION

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ACE AWARDS continued from page 1

themselves to their academic and personal goals. “Recognizing and showing the students that we value that is important,” said Brady.

This year marks the 24th year the awards have been given out. City councilmembers were joined by Maryland General Assembly Delegates Tawanna Gaines, Anne Healey and Alonzo Washington in presenting the awards, including several scholarships for high school seniors.

“It’s the dedication of all my teachers, my parents and my family have all worked to instill in me the skills, like dedication and giving back to your community,” said Arsalan Siddiqui, one of the two seniors who received a \$2,500 scholarship. “I feel like my award is not only mine, it’s everyone’s.”

“It’s a great experience,” said Natasha Jenkins, principal of Springhill Lake Elementary School. “[ACE] and the Greenbelt City Council do a wonderful job in recognizing the accomplishments of our boys and girls in our schools.”

This year, each of Greenbelt’s schools are represented by at least one ACE Student Award recipient. Elementary and middle school winners receive a \$25 Amazon gift card, while high schoolers receive a larger scholarship. The award recipients are as follows:

Magnolia Elementary

Katrina Lu is a prime student. She is respectful of everyone she encounters and displays exemplary behavior and scholarly achievement. She is generous with her time, tutoring classmates in science and math, and helps her teacher keep track of everyone’s performance.

Mathematics and science are Aaron Shi’s academic strength, but he is also responsible, conscientious and always willing to help. Not only is he a member of the safety patrol, but he also assists classmates in their understanding of their lessons and uses his technological knowledge to enhance class activities.

Springhill Lake Elementary

Angel Flores has outstanding work habits and leadership skills. He’s been a member of the Advanced Writing Academy since its founding and is a member of the Helping Hands club, in which he spearheaded projects like “Kindness Cards” and the “Plastic Bag Project.”

Heather Pina is an organized and pleasant student and participates in her school’s social/emotional club and instrumental orchestra. She is also the president of the fifth-grade student council and is passionate about social justice reform.

Greenbelt Elementary

Iris Gaycken is a Girl Scout, volunteers at the Old Greenbelt Theatre, MakerSpace and in the Safety Patrol. An avid reader, Iris views school assignments as opportunities for intellectual growth and is consistently on the Principal’s Honor Roll.

Kai Waters’ positive attitude made him the perfect fit to be GES’s GOLD (Generating Outstanding Leadership Development) student for 2018-2019. Outside of school, he is a member of the Boy Scouts, participates in the Lego League at MakerSpace and



plays tennis and cricket.

Turning Point

D’Kayla Hanson is a well-rounded student who has consistently been on honor roll. Her high marks have earned her a spot in the Prince George’s Community College Health Sciences College Readiness Program; upon her high school graduation, she’ll have also earned her associate’s degree. Outside of her scholastic career, D’Kayla is an active member of her church choir.

Enoch Edun is known for his success in the classroom, especially in English, and his willingness to serve his community. Outside of the classroom, Enoch enjoys soccer, swimming, tennis and drawing, as well as volunteering to help younger children at his church.

Dora Kennedy

While Matthew Harden excels in many aspects of his education, he is a particularly strong writer and leader. He loves sports and baseball and brings the team spirit into the classroom, approaching problems with a collaborative mindset.

Greenbelt Middle

Prior to this academic year, Vincent Blackwell was skipping classes and not meeting his potential. However, this year he changed his attitude towards school and earned grades that placed him on the honor roll all four quarters.

With aspirations to attend the Naval Academy and go to law school, Jeneba Lansana is described as a positive spirit and always strives for excellence. Jeneba enjoys school because she feels it is a place where she can express herself and her interests.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Arsalan Siddiqui has made a name for himself in town; he’s served as the chair of the Greenbelt Youth Advisory Committee and was involved in the National League of Cities (NLC) Youth Planning Committee. Arsalan advocated for the voting age to be reduced in local elections and led a student-voter registration campaign. An AP National Scholar and a participant in the ERHS Capstone Program, Arsalan’s academics and involvement have earned him a \$2,500 scholarship towards his education at the University of Maryland, College Park.

As a participant in ERHS’s rigorous AP Capstone Program, Hailey Ng is in the top 1 percent of her graduating class. This last academic year, Hailey was selected to serve as concertmaster in the Symphony Orchestra, a position that requires musical excellence and leadership skills. Hailey also volunteers at the Greenbelt Library, teaching and leading library goers both young and old.

Delegate Award

Every year, Delegate Anne Healey awards one senior the Maryland State Delegate Award, which includes a \$500 scholarship toward their college expenses. This year’s award was given to Jasmine Tate, whose exemplary involvement sets her apart. A member of Air Force Jr. ROTC, a Peer Leader in the College Summit program and a participant in four sports, Jasmine also took part in the two-week Sister-Exchange

Program in Japan. Jasmine plans on attending Towson University and would like to become a dietitian.

Colleen Crowley is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism reporting for the News Review.

College Park Chorale Concert

On Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m. in the UMD Memorial Chapel, the College Park Chorale’s fifth anniversary concert celebrates the joy of singing. The concert is free; donations are welcome.



Free Outdoor Concert In College Park

On Monday, May 20 from 6 to 7 p.m. singer and guitarist Mike Hummel, a member of the Songwriters Association of Washington, will give a free outdoor concert at the Hotel at UMD, 777 Baltimore Avenue.

This event is part of the Outdoor Performance Series.

MARYLAND LYRIC OPERA

AN EVENING OF

Verdi

Excerpts from *Il Trovatore*,
La traviata, & *Rigoletto*

7:30PM

May 18

2:00PM

May 19

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Youna Hartgraves | Mauricio Miranda
Catherine Martin | Yongxi Chen
Marco Cammarota

Louis Salemno, CONDUCTOR
Joan Sullivan Genthe
LIGHTING DESIGNER

7:30PM

June 7

2:00PM

June 9

KAY THEATRE
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD

Letters continued

residents, commuters and taxpayers, there are real concerns about this project, which Governor Hogan is attempting to push through in the same manner as the maglev. I would like to present a letter to the Maryland Comptroller which describes our concerns much better than I could do myself.

Dear Comptroller Franchot;
I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$10+ billion I-270/I-495 P3 Toll Lane Expansion plan. I object for the following reasons.

1. Thousands of trees will be lost, as well as green space and parkland, resulting in significant pollution and other environmental harm including flooding.

2. The potential loss of property has not yet been completely assessed but likely will be significant. It is projected to include the destruction of 30+ homes, and portions of the Silver Spring YMCA and Blair High School.

3. Clearly some of the thorny engineering problems have not been given proper consideration. Some might ultimately be found to have no solution (after much money and time has been spent) and the entire project could become a colossal waste.

4. Given the lack of analysis, the project will very likely face both cost and duration overruns; that is, it will cost far more than the projected \$10 billion, and take far more time than projected.

5. During the 10 or 15 (or more) years of construction, there will be significant disruption, both to the beltway traffic itself, as well as to the adjacent neighborhoods affected by the construction process.

6. The term ‘turnpike effect’ originally described the phenomenon that occurred when a highway (e.g. a turnpike) was widened: within a short period, the added capacity was filled with unexpected traffic. Within a short period (a year or so) the resultant congestion was as bad, or worse, than before.

There are several alternatives to beltway expansion. Here is an alternative I favor:

Toll the entire beltway: I don’t object in principle to tolling, nor do I object to coexisting toll and free lanes, in principle, however it seems that a coexisting configuration requires expansion, so as far as I am concerned it is not an option. My suggestion is to toll the entire beltway.

Ray Denenberg
Silver Spring
My apologies for the length of this letter, but I believe this is a critical issue for those of us who enjoy living in the area.

Ann Wagner

Maglev is a Boondoggle

The Greenbelt City Council held a special meeting on April 25 to hear David Henley from Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) present the status of the Magnetic Levitation Train Project. The maglev project is a boondoggle, a useless and wasteful project.

According to Henley, BWRR plans to run the maglev Project from Washington, D.C., to New York City. Henley acknowledged there are no commitments of support from other cities. We contend the ridership numbers in

Maryland alone will not be sufficient to pay for the project such that Maryland taxpayers will end up subsidizing the project’s operation and maintenance.

MARC and Amtrak are better options for reducing automobile traffic since they help many more people get where they need to go by providing several stops. The maglev on the other hand only has stops in Washington, D.C., BWI Airport and Baltimore City so it would not serve intra-regional traffic which makes up the majority of automobile trips in the region. The project would merely serve the elite inter-regional traveler.

The Final Alternatives Report recently released by the Maryland Transit Administration describes the two routes running parallel to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and passing through Greenbelt. Route “J (BWP East)” would run east of the Parkway and route “J1” (BWP West) would run west of the Parkway. As described in the MTA Report, one of these two routes or the No Build Alternative will be chosen by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Henley stated that BWRR prefers route J (BWP East). He did not answer a question about the possibility of private property being taken along the routes, which is clearly described in the report. According to the report, as many as 18 residential parcels would be taken, depending on the route.

The report describes an enormous infrastructure to support operation of the driverless high-speed trains. The deep tunnels, above-ground viaducts, power stations, vent plants above the tunnels, 250 acre rolling stock depot, maintenance facilities and roads would greatly reduce our quality of life, lower property values and destroy precious wildlife habitat.

Henley’s presentation gives the impression the project is on its way to completion. He went so far as to state that community input has helped to shape the Project. Henley’s goal is to find ways to mitigate its impact.

Beware of the word mitigate – “to make less harsh or hostile; to make less severe or painful” (Merriam-Webster). The severity and pain that will be caused by this project cannot be made less harsh. It will be harsh if not stopped. The project will deeply harm our environment and forever change our communities.

Brian and Donna Almquist
Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice

I Miss Danny.

Besides his speed at checkout, he could complete yard work in record time. The items in my home that were assembled, repaired and painted by Danny remind me of his presence daily.

Patricia Novinski

Disposal Day Leaves Greenbelt in Shreds

Greenbelters responded in earnest to Spring Shredding Day, sponsored by the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union (GFCU) and the City of Greenbelt. The event resulted in the shredding of 11,700 pounds of paper (5.85 tons). This is the equivalent of saving 99 trees and the landfill 29 cubic yards. Joe Timer, the credit union president, noted that this was one of the largest responses ever by GFCU members and the community. He stated, “We thank the participants for their patience on Saturday when lines were long, waiting to deposit their materials. It’s obvious that the community values this program. The credit union is already working with its contractor to increase shredding capacity at the next event this fall.”



PHOTO BY CYNDI COMPTON

Participants stand in line to contribute to the GFCU/City shredding day.

PLANNING continued from page 1

staff response to county legislation were discussed in some detail: short-term rental legislation affecting Airbnb rentals, which will be effective October 1, and the multi-year revision of the county Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations and its corollary, the countywide comprehensive map amendment process.

Regarding the short-term rental legislation, Councilmember Judith Davis said County Councilmember Dannielle Glaros had suggested that municipal staff should meet and work cooperatively with county staff on implementing the changes. Councilmember Edward Putens expressed concerns about identifying properties that are working with Airbnb platforms and bringing them into compliance with the new law, especially in Greenbelt East.

Hruby said it was her intent to work with the county, but she stressed that the city should wait and piggyback wherever possible on what the county is doing in order not to duplicate effort. She plans to pursue a meeting in the summer and to involve the city solicitor in meetings with the county as well, in order to assure that it is clear what authority the city will have. Another critical aspect, according to Hruby, is that many provisions of the county legislation have been successfully challenged in states outside of Maryland.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts reported hearing that Marriott was beginning to rent houses. He was concerned that there might be “a deluge” of short-term rentals. Hruby replied that under the county’s legislation, that would be illegal. The county limits Airbnb rentals to one primary residence per county for a limited number of days per year.

Having adopted the new zoning ordinance, the county council is now looking ahead to receiving the first countywide comprehensive map amendment. The revised ordinance and regulations are not effective until the map amendment is adopted.

Zoning Overlays

Hruby said her staff is looking forward to active participation in the countywide map amendment process, as well as working with the county, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), and other historic prop-

erty owners on drafting a Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone (NCOZ), which has evolved as the best vehicle for preserving the features that define Greenbelt’s legacy as a planned community. A neighborhood planning study is required for doing an NCOZ, and Hruby believes that the neighborhood study should be completed prior to consideration of the GHI plan. She estimated the study would be completed in late summer or early fall.

Many Other Projects

Councilmembers commented that the department’s work program gets longer every year. The staff has a long list of other projects and assignments on their plate, of which the following are only a small sample of those discussed. For more information, the budget book can be accessed from the city home page.

Work continues to fully implement a field-based inspections system by retrofitting vehicles with computers and printers in order to be able to generate in-field reports and notices. This capability will save not only paper but a great deal of staff time.

Success has been declared on a long-standing request of the council to receive reports on property foreclosures in the city.

Transportation

Councilmember Leta Mach asked about the status of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans. Planning staff members are working with Public Works and the city’s Advisory Planning Board to fully implement the plans. Davis asked to find ways to accelerate implementation and to inform council of what progress has been made.

Councilmembers also asked for the status of another long project, the Complete and Green

Street Policy, which has not yet gone to council for review. Porter has recently finished presenting it to the relevant boards and committees, and it is now scheduled for a June 12 council worksession.

Capital Projects

Staff members will be working with Public Works on the remaining phases of the Greenbelt Lake Dam Repair Project. They will also undertake another round of restoration work for the Mother and Child Statue at Roosevelt Center and the bas reliefs on the Community Center. Mach asked staff to look into whether there might be a practical way to maintain these works with ongoing maintenance rather than having to take more drastic measures every decade or so.

Greenbelt West

Staff will continue to monitor and seek funding for the connection trail between the Greenbelt Station community and the Metro station and to oversee the final build-out and opening of Phase 3 of the townhouse development, including conveying the remaining open space.

Staff will continue to oversee plans for the redevelopment of Beltway Plaza and for proposed development at Capital Office Park.

Davis asked what the status of development is near the Marriott Courtyard, Capitol Cadillac and the former nursing home. The answer was that the Courtyard and Capitol Cadillac are making progress, and the former nursing home property is back to the drawing board.



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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Carjacking
May 6, 12:01 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A man parked his rental vehicle and got out to get items from the back seat when another man armed with a handgun approached, got into the driver’s seat and drove away. The vehicle was recovered later the same day by Prince George’s County police in the 3900 block Coach Lane in Temple Hills.

Robbery
May 2, 12:26 a.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive. Two men attempted to get in the back seat of a car as the driver was parking it but the doors were locked. The men then displayed guns and told the driver to unlock the doors. He refused and the men fled on foot toward Edmonston Terrace.

Theft
May 3, 2 p.m., 100 block Westway. The youth who was helping a man move furniture in his home took money. He is known to the man and an investigation is ongoing.

May 5, 11:30 a.m., 7400 block Greenbelt Road. A pair of unattended Air Pod earphones was taken from a table at AT&T.

May 5, 3:20 p.m., 7500 block Mandan Road. Several individual mailbox units from a mailbox frame in an apartment hallway were removed.

Vandalism
May 3, 11:46 a.m., 6200 block Springhill Court. A 13-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested and charged with malicious destruction after he allegedly broke out an apartment window with a fire extinguisher. He was later identified along with three other juveniles as being involved with setting a small fire in the 6100 block of Breezewood Court. The four youths were released to Greenbelt Middle School administrators pending action by the Juvenile Justice System and Prince George’s County fire investigators.

May 7, 1:30 p.m., 200 block Lakeside Drive. The outer glass pane of a sliding door was broken out.

Trespass
May 5, 8:47 a.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. A 57-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespass after she was found on the grounds of Greenway Shopping Center after having been banned from the shopping center by agents of the property. She was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court

commissioner.
Vehicle Crime
One vehicle was stolen in the 7500 block Greenbelt Road, a gray 4-door 2016 Nissan Sentra with Md. tags T884248.

Two vehicles were recovered. A 2015 Lexus ES350 reported stolen to Arlington County police was recovered in the 6100 block Springhill Terrace. A 2001 Acura MDX SUV reported stolen to Anne Arundel County police was recovered on Greenbelt Road near the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle accident and the unidentified driver fled on foot.

Rear tag Md. 7DM6489 was taken in the 7700 block Hanover Parkway.

Hand tools were taken in the 9100 block Edmonston Road and money in the 5900 block Cherrywood Lane from two possibly unlocked cars.

A cell phone, laptop computer and sneakers were taken in the 7800 block Mandan Road after the front passenger window was broken.

A generator was taken from the back of a work truck in the 5900 block Cherrywood Lane.

Fatal Shooting On Ivy Lane

Officers responded to multiple reports of a shooting in the 6300 block Ivy Lane on Friday, May 10 at approximately 5:10 p.m., where a woman was found in the parking lot with an apparent gunshot wound to the head. She was pronounced dead on the scene and identified as Bettie Jenifer, 44 years old, of Bowie.

A preliminary investigation revealed that she had exited a nearby office building and was walking to her vehicle when she was approached by a man armed with a handgun. Jenifer then ran across the parking lot followed by the man, who fired multiple times at her, with two shots striking her. The man then fled in a vehicle described as blue in color. He is described as a black male, middle aged, with a thin build wearing what appeared to be a sleeveless vest type top, black in color. “We do not believe this was a random incident,” said George Mathews, Greenbelt Police department spokesman.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Mark Holden at 240-542-2134 or email at mholden@greenbeltmd.gov.

Newspaper Staffers Tackle Maine’s Weather and Trails

by Cathie Meetre

Two intrepid News Review staffers braved the Down East Maine mud season to take a break in Lubec, the easternmost town in the United States. Deanna Dawson and Cathie Meetre flew to Portland, Maine, in mid-April and then drove the nearly five remaining hours northeast to Lubec.

Lubec is a small town. It was decimated by the demise of the sardine canning industry from overfishing and decreasing consumer interest. During its heyday, the cannery owners used their riches to build splendid Victorian mansions.

Today, Lubec occupies a pivotal position as a customs post for entry into Canada. It is also just a mile from the former summer residence of the Roosevelts on Campobello Island, New Brunswick. Using old carriage roads, the intrepid can hike from their lodgings in Lubec across the bridge and over narrows once navigated by former president Franklin D. Roosevelt in a naval destroyer (before the bridge was built).

The channel, previously crossed by ferry (but only at slack water), is about 150 yards wide. It squeezes the immense flow of water associated with the high tides of the Bay of Fundy into a turbulent four-times-daily tidal race. One end of the bridge has U.S. customs and the other end has Canadian customs.

The dramatic water flows make it a favorite fishing grounds for seals, who take advantage of the current by floating with it upstream and copping an eddy to go back to the start point. Although only one seal was sighted on this trip, later in the season sometimes a dozen can be seen hunting fish confused by the surge of water swirling against the pylons under the bridge.

Birds A-Plenty
Dawson is an ornithologist by profession so it was an instructive trip for Meetre, who can barely distinguish the English robin from an American eagle. Birds were just beginning to arrive from their wintering grounds, and hungry grackles were beating up on smaller birds to pillage the bird feeder. Eider ducks, near the southern limit of their range, were paired and scouting for nest sites, and a Great Blue Heron was trying its luck in the shallows.

As the weather warms, many more seabirds will fly north to find homes. In summer, there will be finches and humming birds.

Trails to Defect
Within a 20-mile range of Lubec there are more than a dozen nature preserves, most of which have multiple hiking trails. There is a gravel-surfaced bike/ATV trail that is part of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) that runs right by the Greenbelt Sunoco. It is about 1,200 miles of cycling from Greenbelt to East Machias, Maine (the nearest point on the ECG to Lubec).

The first morning gave some sunshine as the travelers hiked around Western Head, which separates the Bay of Fundy from Cobscook Bay, near the scenic water village of Cutler. They



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

Deanna Dawson takes refuge from the rain in Maine to finish a bear of a jigsaw puzzle.

were amazed to find glaciers of ice blocking the path in several places. Fortunately, all were navigable and the three-mile loop hike from the rocky bay beaches out to the cliffs was soggy but rewarding.

But in April, spring is not far along and on later hikes, conditions were simply too difficult and dangerous to tackle. Sheets of ice, slippery log pathways, deep streams and boggy conditions on the trail forced Dawson and Meetre back more than once. For hikers later in the year, the area is a rich trove of pathways that weave through a mix of rocks, forest, bogs, cliffs and beaches.

Hello Lighthouse
The adventurers were also lucky enough to encounter a Lubec library program featuring illustrator and author Sophie Blackall. Her book, Hello Lighthouse, recently won her a second Caldecott Medal (given for illustrated children’s books).

Blackall had spent the day working her way through Grades 1 through 8 in the local school, talking about writing and illustrating and handing out copies of her books under the auspices of a local organization supporting children’s literacy. She regrouped from those labors to offer a stimulating talk to adults on children’s reading, her own books and the art of illustration.

The dozen or so members of the audience (a significant percentage of the local population) were enthusiastic. Maine, of course, is in love with lighthouses and there are three within an easy drive of Lubec. All

have very satisfying red-and-white striped exteriors, though the working ones are now automated.

Warm and Dry or Not
Meetre and Dawson didn’t miss a day of hiking due to the weather, but pottering about otherwise outside was damp and unrewarding. As a result, much time was spent in indoor pursuits; there was no TV. Both read several books. Meetre wrote Excel scripts and Dawson did a jigsaw puzzle of England’s Stoke Bruerne canal (where Meetre had cycled, coincidentally, just the previous October). This wasn’t just any jigsaw, but a perfectly fiendish specimen. About 10" high by 24" wide, large swaths of it were exactly the same color and the puzzle pieces were practically identical. It took six days of steady effort to finish. Before anybody asks why, as George Mallory said of Everest: Because it’s there.

Hiking Amuck
The culminating hike of the week was not really supposed to be much more than a gentle walk along a cliff in the drizzle. But a wrong turn and a lack of signposting (they had been removed for the winter) turned an easy jaunt into a four-mile hike in the rain through bogs and across streams. It went over precarious wooden slats and involved much scrambling over rocks and along the edge of cliffs. Both walkers ended up with mud to the shins and their shoes asquish. Though they feared they might be too late and the café would be closed, they were still in time to pick up the lobsters they had ordered.

And my, did they taste good.

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NOTICES

PPROOFREADERS. Do you spot errors When reading the News Review? We need a few people to proof that on Wednesday afternoons. Call Sue 301-474.2219 or editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS. 101 Greenhill Rd @ Crescent Rd, Greenbelt. Weekly meeting every Monday at 7:30 p.m. A 12-step support group for people with over and under eating and other problems with food. Info, 240-305-3433.

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Sports

Roosevelt Lacrosse Teams, Boys Baseball All On a Roll

by Patrick Gleason

The Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders girls lacrosse team is poised to repeat as regional champions this spring. After defeating the Bowie Bulldogs 14-8, they earned a spot in the regional championship against the Northwestern Wildcats. Roosevelt has already defeated Northwestern twice this season, despite the Wildcats' aggressive style of play. With a regional championship under their belt, the Raiders will return to the state semi-finals, either Friday, May 17 or Saturday, May 18 at Gaithersburg High School.

The Raiders have been captained effectively by seniors Camille Lorente, Jeanette Betke and Olivia Joachim all season and leading goal scorer Isabella Gandolph led the Raiders yet again with three goals and one assist. Lorente and Betke weaved through the Bulldogs defense throughout the evening, while goalie Zosia Nicholson – also a starting forward on the Raiders' soccer team – thwarted Bowie's offensive advances with the help of four-year veteran senior starters Melanie Danso and Lucia Blotzer-Iannucci.

Boys Team Succumbs

After winning the county championship on May 4, the Raiders boys lacrosse team was poised for another playoff in a row, opening with a 19-4 victory over the Wise Pumas. However, a strong performance from senior goalie Jared Hamlin in goal was not enough to overcome their rivals, the Bowie Bulldogs, in the second round. The Raiders fell behind by five goals early on and

despite a third quarter rally that narrowed the deficit to 11-8, the Bulldogs pulled away in the final quarter.

Senior long pole defenders Joseph Niba and Kevin Lopez-Pineda were tenacious throughout the evening but the Raiders struggled to maintain possession off the draw and Bowie won a majority of groundballs. While they failed to repeat as regional champions, the Raiders have reason to celebrate an undefeated league season and back-to-back county championships, despite losing several key starters from a season ago.

Baseball

On the diamond, the Raiders have had a perfect spring so far. After running through their league schedule without a blemish, the Raiders also earned county championship honors with a 17-7 victory over Gwynn Park on Wednesday, May 8. With a starting pitching trio of Todd Murphy, Andy Orwig and Brian Bailey, Jr., the Raiders have kept opponents at bay, while senior Derek Ohringer has spearheaded the Raiders' offense, though they did scuffle to a 2-0 opening round playoff victory over Wise on May 11. The Raiders enter the home matchup on May 15 as the region's number one-seed, buoyed by two victories over their opponents, the Flowers Jaguars, in the regular season. A win there would set up a regional final on Friday, May 17 with the Parkdale Panthers as the most likely opponent.



PHOTO BY VANESSA VAN DER HAVE

Junior Todd Murphy, the Raiders top starter, delivers in a game earlier this spring.



The Lady Raiders celebrate victory after their county championship game.

- Photos by Dursha Ragunathan



The ERHS Raiders mens lacrosse team celebrates victory after their county championship game.



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***Your Greenbelt Specialists
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Local Landmark Behnke’s Nursery Will Close in June

by Leigh Ellis

On Thursday, May 2, Greenbelters and neighbors gathered at the Community Center to hear the history of Behnke’s, a nursery and garden company which is shutting down soon. Stephanie Fleming, current vice president and the founder’s granddaughter, took the audience through Behnke’s history with a slideshow of old family photos.

Indeed, the history of Behnke is largely a family history. Fleming recounted the early years. “Behnke Nurseries was founded in Beltsville in 1930,” she said, by German immigrants Albert Behnke and Rose Hausner. They fell in love on a trip back to Germany and settled in Maryland.

When Behnke purchased the Route 1 property, it would have been unrecognizable to a modern resident. The land was undeveloped, green and rolling. In keeping with the Behnke family business, the first crop put into the land was roses for selling as cut flowers, not plants.

In 1931, the fields were plowed by cattle and hard work while the family grew quickly. They welcomed four children: Roland, Sonja, William and Albert, Jr. Their first home was the original sales office, a four-room house with no plumbing. Behnke, however, had a dream for the land.

“He dreamed of making it into a park-like setting,” Fleming said. When the south side of the property proved to be wet, he made a pond with a bench for sitting. People came to spend the day there, enjoying the property.

All four Behnke children worked in the nursery. “When the business wasn’t so great, [Behnke] would have the kids wave bundles of flowers” at the cars that passed by Route 1, recounted Fleming.

It wasn’t all work without play, however. “I learned to pull the perennials out and pretend it was a weed,” Fleming said. “[Grandfather] would send me in the house saying, ‘Go see your mother!’” When cold weather froze the lake, they went ice skating.

Behnke didn’t just sell plants. “The neighbor gave [us] an [African] violet called Blue Boy,” Fleming said, which sparked an interest in hybridization. They developed and named a strand after Fleming herself. It was pink with light ruffles. “It was discontinued for being a poor performer,” she continued to some chuckles. “They also named a daylily after me that was gorgeous.”

Albert Behnke and Rose Hausner retired to Burtonsville, where they built their dream home in



Stephanie Fleming, vice president of Behnke’s, talks about the history of the Behnke Nurseries in Beltsville, at a Greenbelt Museum sponsored event, dedicated to John Maffay, on May 2. - Photos by Gary Childs



Scrapbooks, photographs and other memorabilia document the history of the nursery.

1965 and remained until they died. The business passed to family members and trusted employees.

Fleming asked, “How many Greenbelters have worked at Behnke’s? How many people know someone who has worked at Behnke’s?” Hands shot up all around the room. Fleming pointed to familiar faces in the audience. “Karen used to be a manager. Alex used to be a manager.”

She flipped the slideshow to other faces of Behnke’s, past and present: Leo Bicknese, vice president and president; Helmut Jaenighen, woody plant manager and buyer; Hank Doong, CFO; Alfred Millard, current president; and many others. Behnke’s has employed thousands of people over the years.

“We’ve been blessed with the best employees a company could ever have,” Fleming said.

Loud applause and a question and answer session followed the talk. The audience expressed appreciation for the variety of plants, the educational classes Behnke’s provided and the opportunity to buy local. Fleming

agreed, “Why would you buy it from Ohio when it’s in your backyard?”

Fleming plans to do something with the company and family records. “I have so much stuff. My grandmother loved taking pictures. If you go on our website, our blog, you’ll see I’ve used them a bit. I’m keeping the blog going.”

She cited issues with the greenhouses among other reasons to close and expected the last day to be sometime in June. “We’ve been overwhelmed with the response,” Fleming said. We’ve refilled the nursery three times.”

Exact plans for the property were not disclosed. However, Fleming said, “We’ve been working with the county for three years. We have a mixed use license. The county would like to see townhouses.”

When asked about the closure, Fleming’s voice was tinged with sadness but firm. “It’s time,” she said.

From the audience, a woman replied, “Greenbelt will miss you.”

Rays on the Roof Girds Up For Action on Solar Project

by Cathie Meetre

Though it may seem as though nothing much is happening with Rays on the Roof, in fact there is much activity behind the scenes as Project Manager Steve Skolnik works with potential contractors to get the information needed for a variety of decisions. This is not a simple project because it involves, at a minimum, lifting the mechanical equipment already on the roof to pass the roof membrane beneath it. The decision on how to proceed so that the continuity of refrigeration and air conditioning is not at risk is complicated. Factors to weigh include the cost and feasibility of alternatives such as relocating the equipment off the roof, replacing it or not, leaving it on the roof and mounting it differently – either temporarily or permanently.

The Rays on the Roof Steering Committee is also primed to make a recommendation to the Co-op board on contractor choice – another major milestone in the process.

Decisions

A significant factor to consider is how many holes in the roofing membrane will result from each solution. The roof’s integrity is lessened by every penetration through the membrane by a pipe or a leg attached to the roof members and the cost is also higher because each such piercing needs to be flashed carefully.

Though this analytical process is time consuming, it is essential to prevent embarking on the project and then finding out in mid-stride that some element of it is impractical or more expensive and complicated than anticipated. Folk wisdom has many references to this process: An ounce of prevention, measure twice, cut once and a stitch in time all come to mind. It is also unlikely that roofing can start until the fall as most roofers already have their summer schedule booked. This gives the Co-op team breathing

space to make the right choices.

Pledge Management

Throughout this period, another quiet, perhaps even insidious, activity is taking place. Board member and designated bag man Bill Jones is contacting those who have made pledges. He is requesting the donations and investments previously promised. Each individual is contacted separately to sign the investment documents and pass on a check. Those who have not yet heard from Jones will doubtless get their call to arms in due course.

Jones reports that the process is going well and though one or two individuals have retreated somewhat from their original promise because of personal circumstances, just as many have increased the amount they are willing to offer. Jones is also working with investors to spread out the duration of their investments in order to balance out the amount that is to be repaid year by year. Although the investment terms available were 4, 7 and 10 years, Jones has a variety of other options available to shift some of the repayments to a later date to help balance the portfolio. Nobody is required to change their option if they prefer to stick with it.

So, for the moment, no news is the right news. Co-op encourages its regular shoppers to add a Rays on the Roof \$1, \$3 or \$5 coupon to each visit to the store. It is not very painful and the support adds up.

It’s not too late to donate a larger amount or to invest in the project. Doing so gives more strategic choices and helps with the essential contingency funds necessary for any construction project. Check out the website for further information on the Rays on the Roof campaign at greenbelt.coop/cms/join/solar-array-project.



Project Manager Steve Skolnik peruses the equipment on the roof during an assessment by a roofing contractor.

PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

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